

November 2003

Chestnut Ridge Park

# SMART Tests Mobile Point of Distribution

The concept of a portable Point Of Distribution (POD) was validated by SMART during Exercise Virex 11-03.

Power was established from the trailer mounted generator and propane heaters provided enough heat to keep the team in shirt sleeves.

After maintaining the POD for 4 hours SMART broke down the site, repacked the trailer, and moved back to the staging area at the Fire Training Academy.

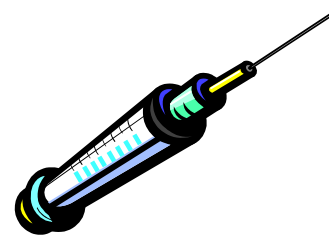
Chestnut Ridge Park served as the site for a simulated POD. The Western New York Public Health Alliance conducted the multi-county exercise to improve regional readiness for mass treatment or prophylaxis following a disease outbreak.

The mission for the day was to provide a mobile facility to support a Department of Health immunization team. SMART provided shelter, heat, power, communications, and logistics support as well as emergency medical equipment and staff.

The exercise was evaluated by representatives of the NYS Department of Health. SMART's successful employment of a portable POD significantly enhances regional readiness for public health emergencies.

SMART volunteers assembled at the park early Saturday November 8 to establish the POD. Although the temperature was in the 20's, two tents were erected and connected with a vestibule within 2 hours.

SMART volunteers provided food and hot drinks for the POD staff as well as members of the Disaster LAN and RACES teams.



*SMART volunteers immunized over 60 first responders for influenza and tetanus*

## VIREX 11-03

VIREX was a public health readiness exercise conducted on November 7 and 8, 2003. The exercise required a regional response to a notional disease outbreak.

The Western New York Public Health Alliance es-

tablished EOC's in Erie and Cattaraugus Counties and conducted simultaneous POD operations coordinated through a regional EOC.

Over 1,000 people were processed during the exercise.



### Special points of interest:

- Communications to EOC by RACES
- Electronic SITREP to EOC by wireless modem
- Paperless registration by Disaster LAN
- SMART generator power tested
- SMART propane heat tested
- SMART hand-held radios tested
- SMART winter operations tested



SPECIALIZED MEDICAL ASSISTANCE RESPONSE TEAM

# Virex 11-03